The bilingual mind is the dimension wherein the practical aspects of the long-standing debate between universalist and culture-specific views of emotion come to a head. In the processing of emotional content of L2, does the non-native mind rely on the universal nature of emotion? Or does it struggle to reconcile different culture-specific emotion concepts? Jończyk nad Thierry (submitted) provide evidence that in early processing „the brain turns a blind eye” to negative emotions in L2. Our current results indicate that the late cognitive-affective processing yields higher recognition rates to negative than to positive emotions in L2. We followed Scherer's (2005) proposal to integrate leading research paradigms to provide an empirically-based comprehensive description of emotion processing dynamics. We implemented the two prevailing universalist emotion recognition paradigms (the dimensional view in Russell 1980, the categorical view in Ekman 1992) and a free emotion labeling paradigm to investigate how emotional prosody is processed in the non-native mind. Emotional prosody as a phenomenon straddles the line dividing the verbal and the non-verbal aspects of emotional expression/perception and therefore constitutes good material to contrast different research paradigms. Russell's two dimensions of positivity-negativity and arousal and Ekman's six basic emotions (anger, sadness, fear, disgust, surprise, happiness) are paradigms describing the universal principles underlying emotions and cover the non-verbal aspect of emotion expression/perception. The free label paradigm covers the verbal aspect.

We induced the emotions of sadness and happiness in 8 native speakers of English, and recorded them as they expressed their emotions spontaneously, and voice-acted valued sentences in sad and happy tones. The emotions expressed in the recordings were rated by a group of native English-speaking judges in a variety of audio and video conditions to establish the role emotional prosody plays in recognizing emotion. For our study we selected a subset of audio recordings processed through low band pass filter (60-300Hz), as our intention was to investigate emotional prosody without interference form semantics.

Participants listened to samples of emotional prosody and categorized (into happy/sad/other), evaluated (in terms of positivity-negativity and arousal), and named the emotions expressed by the speakers in the samples. In all three response paradigms the participants have consistently performed better on the negative emotions. Sadness was recognized with greater accuracy and it was less often mistaken for other emotions than was happiness. Happiness was most often mis-recognized as varieties of anger. Overall, our results indicate a preferential bias for negative emotion recognition in L2 emotional prosody. The potential causes of this result and its implications for future studies of emotion will be presented for discussion.

**WORDCOUNT: 423**

**References:**
Jończyk, Rafał and Guillaume Thierry. (submitted). “The bilingual brain turns a blind eye to negative statements in the second language.”